

A LIVELY CAMPAIGN.

FIGHTING COLONEL BRECKINRIDGE IN THE ASHLAND DISTRICT.

Something About His Democratic Opponents, Owens and Settle—Major McDowell, the Republican Champion, a Descendant of Henry Clay.

If there was ever a livelier political campaign than that which is now being waged for the congress nomination in that part of old Kentucky that is known as the Ashland district, the American people would like to know about it. Happily, though often predicted since the beginning of hostilities, there has been no shooting as yet. This statement must be made with caution. It is true enough as to the date of this writing, but it may not be so when these words meet the reader's eye in cold type, for it



W. C. OWENS.

takes but a mighty short time to do a lot of very effective shooting, and it is matter for surprise, this year of blood and disaster and reprisals, that the shedding of blood in the Ashland district has been delayed so long.

The public is well informed regarding the pre-existing facts of the situation—the circumstances, that is, of the legal contest in which he came off second best; that W. C. P. Breckinridge, the sitting member from the Ashland district, had to go through, with Madeline Pollard for an opponent, and the opposition that has developed against him on racial purity grounds. The public should also be aware of the fact that down to the present time a Democratic nomination in the Ashland district has been equal to an election; that the battle now raging is for the nomination only, and that it is quite within the bounds of possibility that there may be more than one Democratic nominee this fall. If there is, the fight for the election will doubtless be a harder one than that for the nomination. Colonel Breckinridge's chief opponents in the present fight are Owens and Settle, the first named being perhaps the more prominent of the two.

William C. Owens is a citizen of Georgetown, Ky., a town located about 60 miles from Lexington, the state capital. He is a man who has already made a record as a public official, having served many years in the state legislature and more than one term as speaker of the lower house. Moreover, he is not unknown outside of Kentucky, for at the last national convention of the Democratic party he was made temporary chairman and won praise by the dignified manner with which he acquitted himself on that occasion. He is about 46 years of age, a bachelor, and his family, like the Breckinridge family, is of the blue grass aristocracy. He is a lawyer with a good practice and a liberal income. His personal habits are indicated by those who know him when they speak of him as "a free liver and convivial spirit, but of unassailable reputation." When it is added that he plays as still a game of poker as any man in the state, it will be clear to the reader undoubtedly that he is a typical Kentucky gentleman. Between him and Breckinridge there has long existed a bitter personal feeling, and that fact accounts in some degree for the extraordinary vigor which Mr. Owens has infused into the present contest.

Evan E. Settle, the second Democratic opponent of the gallant colonel, is a lawyer, like the others, and is a present



EVAN E. SETTLE.

member of the state legislature. He has always been on terms of friendliness with Breckinridge, and they have spoken from the same platform during the present campaign. Mr. Settle's fight has in many ways lacked much of being as vigorous as Mr. Owens'. In his addresses Settle has been so careful in the matter of allusions to the Pollard scandal as to excite serious apprehensions that his canvass is merely a blind in the interests of the colonel. In other words, it is claimed by some Owens men that Settle does not hope to be nominated, but does expect to divide the opposition to Breckinridge's nomination, and so bring about the latter's success. Of course this is indignantly denied by Mr. Settle and his friends, but this denial does not appear to be taken as being greatly significant, because it is a denial and not an admission that would put forth if the charges were true, and nothing is added to its weight by the fact that Breckinridge's friends are quite as strenuous in voicing the denial as are Settle's.

Major Henry Clay McDowell is certain, as things look now, to be the Republican nominee—that is, if Breckinridge should succeed in winning the Democratic nomination. Notwithstanding the fact that his political affiliations have not been acceptable to the bulk of the best people of the Ashland

district in the past, there are not wanting those who declare that thousands of good Democratic votes would be cast for him in preference to Breckinridge. He is a cousin of the late General Irvin McDowell of the United States army and has the blood of the famous Clay family in his veins, being grandnephew to Henry Clay. His wife is great-granddaughter to the same eminent statesman and only issue is Ashland, the old time estate of the Clay family. Major McDowell is the richest resident of his part of the state, he is recognized as one of the leading citizens by all classes, and Ashland is a social center. His wife's father was the third Clay of the name of Henry and was killed in the Mexican war at the battle of Buena Vista. The fine old residence at Ashland is furnished expensively and tastefully, and its contents include a remarkably well selected library of rare and valuable books. Major McDowell has never been personally prominent in politics. His ownership of some of the finest blooded horses in Kentucky has, however, made him very well known. Among the famous horses that have been raised on the Ashland estate was the stallion Dictator, sire of some of the fastest trotters in the world, including Phallas, Jay Eye See, Nancy Hanks, etc. So much for the standard bearers in the fight against Colonel Breckinridge. His career and characteristics are too well known to need space here. The fight itself has presented some truly curious phases.

Perhaps one of the most interesting of these has been the publication of a book containing the record made daily of the words and doings of Madeline Pollard by a young woman in the pay of the colonel during the trial of the notorious breach of promise case. It was a piece of ingenuity worthy of a Breckinridge to hire a woman to worm herself into the confidence of the plaintiff during the progress of the suit, and it was a logical sequence to bring out the book at the time. Whether or not it will serve the proposed purpose of counteracting the feeling of aversion that has manifested itself in some quarters because of the revelations made on



ASHLAND, HOME OF HENRY CLAY McDOWELL.

the trial against the man who is now being tried a second time by a jury composed of the voters of his own neighborhood will be decided by time. Throughout the entire campaign so far most of the women of the district have been against him, and their opposition has not been lessened by the fact that his managers have revived many old scandals concerning members of such families as do not now countenance his candidacy. In return for these tactics on his part an old scandal of a financial nature, in which he figured as principal, has been raked up against him. In many places flags and banners and transparencies bearing mottoes directly referring to the social significance of the campaign have been displayed, and those have in several instances added greatly to the existing tension. At one place a flag inscribed with the words, "Protect American Womanhood," was torn into small pieces and trampled under foot by the crowd, and this action, so the telegraph states, was participated in by some of the women who were present.

Mr. Owens, like Major McDowell, is something of a turf devotee, and this characteristic is held up as being against both of them among the Methodists and Presbyterians of the district, who are very numerous. It can be readily seen why the inhabitants of the Ashland district, no matter what their preferences regarding the congressional nomination may be, are already tired of the present campaign. They are a proud people, and the charges and countercharges that have been made and are sure to be made later are likely to implicate some whose standing in society and public life has always been unimpeached till now. Very few of these charges—perhaps none of them—will be proved. In fact, they are and will be of a nature extremely difficult to substantiate. But they will be quite as difficult to disprove and are certain to have lasting stains, whether true or not.

It is this that excites apprehensions of bloodshed, for with regard to the social honor of the women of his household the Kentuckian has held from time immemorial that the only thing that will wipe out a stain is gore. If shooting once begins, there is no telling where it will end or for how many generations the feuds it engenders will last. The fact that there are yet riding of two months to be lived through before the holding of the Democratic convention—called for Sept. 15—is to be deplored, for that is enough time to work the whole district into a frenzy. The Republican convention will be held on Sept. 29. In the meantime there may be exciting telegrams to the newspapers from the Ashland district "most any day."

Soap is extravagantly dear in Mexico, a bar of the commonest sort, worth a cent or two in the United States, bringing 10 cents, while standard high grade soaps are luxuries for the rich only, a single piece costing the day's wages of a good carpenter.

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Up to Date Little Women in the Regulation Tailor Made Gown—Dressy Frocks of Crepon, Laines and China Silks—Many Colored Tique Dresses.

The "tailor made" epidemic has attacked not only the misses, but even the 8-year-old girls, and if they are really quite up to date little women they own at least one of the regulation coat and skirt gowns. The covers are not so conspicuously wide and pointed, but they are there in a modified form. The little coat is short and full to the back, and the blouse waist may be of silk, gingham or muslin. These dresses are made of blue, brown and tan serges or sackings and are stylish for girls over 8 years of age.

The pretty crepon is much used for more dressy gowns, and a dainty one is made of white, trimmed on the skirt



LITTLE GIRL IN TAILOR GOWN.

with a frill of creamy lace. The puffed bodice has a soft silk waistband, while over the shoulders there is a quaint little pelerine of white china silk bordered with lace.

Another more simple gown is of pink and white crepon, and the double shoulder frills, skirt and yoke are all edged with black velvet baby ribbon.

White and colored piques, dainty figured laines and china silks are used for the little gowns. The New York Sun, which recently illustrated the foregoing styles, also describes a figured india silk frock, with a plain skirt, and a simply full waist and bands of satin in a color that harmonizes with the figure, crossed in front and fastened with ribbons.

For outing and street dresses girls of 15 or 16 years wear serges or sackings, usually blue, though sometimes brown, made with a short blazer, or a still shorter bolero, or a jacket ornamented with four buttons. The jacket does not quite meet in front and has modest revers and collar instead of the full butterfly collar of last season. Desired breadth is given by full sleeves, which are sometimes in mutton leg shape, and again are modified bishop sleeves, full all the way to the cuffs, though nar-



THREE PRETTY FROCKS.

rower than at the top. The skirt, without lining and simply hemmed, is gored in the side seams and from 3 yards to 3 1/2 wide. A silk shirt waist and others of madras gingham complete these girlish suits. A wide rimmed sailor hat or a softer trimmed fancy straw hat with low crown completes this suit.

For their best dresses these young girls wear light crepons striped across with silk of a contrasting color, white with fine blue stripes, or pale green with white lines.

How to Iron Table Linen. After a cloth is properly sprinkled pull the diagonal corners as hard as possible and fold with a lengthwise crease through the middle. Roll smooth and tight and let lie for 20 minutes. For rich damask or embroidered linens put an extra blanket on the ironing table under its muslin cover. Lay the embroidered part smoothly over it, right side down, and press with a heavy iron just below scorching heat. When all most dry and very smooth, turn and iron on the right side, using very light iron on the embroidery and heavier ones on the plain round. Stretch the fabric well with the hands before pressing embroidery.

When the right side is properly done, fold it lengthwise along the middle, then begin at one end and lay about six inches lightly over. Do not fold it down, but roll until all the length is coiled. Go over the cloth twice or thrice with a hot iron, changing iron frequently. Iron till the pattern shows plain on a glossy white surface.

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From the N. Y. Tribune, Nov. 2, 1892.

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